

May 29, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Health System Organizations and Providers

SUBJECT: Update on COVID-19 Preparations and Actions

In follow-up to our last communication, we are pleased to share additional updates from the provincial Health Command Table on key actions that are being taken to address COVID-19. Key actions and preparations will continue to focus on:

- **Deploying rapid supports to long-term care homes** to protect the most vulnerable populations.
 - The government received the Canadian Armed Forces report on the five long-term care homes in which the military has been assisting. The government took immediate actions to deploy long-term care inspection teams to conduct comprehensive, detailed inspections and appointed temporary management to stabilize these homes.
 - We continue to monitor and test in long-term care homes and are exploring visitor policies to reconnect residents with their loved ones while ensuring staff, resident and visitor safety.
- Enhancing public health system capacity and information on the course of the pandemic, including implementing the next phase of the government's COVID-19 **testing strategy**.
 - On May 29th, the government announced the next phase of Ontario's testing strategy, [*Protecting Ontarians Through Enhanced Testing*](#). It includes three branches of testing, focusing on assessment centre testing, targeted campaigns, and outbreak management.
 - We continue work to implement expanded testing to populations living in congregate settings, building on successes to date in testing within long-term care homes.
 - Our expanded testing strategy will go hand-in-hand with expanded **case management and contact tracing**. This includes building flexible capacity to support local public health units, if needed, in addressing any surges in new cases and contacts. The government will shortly be launching a new exposure notification app that will alert Ontarians when they may have been exposed to COVID-19 and recommend appropriate actions, such as monitoring for symptoms, self-isolation and/or appropriate next steps on getting tested.

We thank you for your continued work to support the implementation of our provincial efforts to respond to the pandemic and implement a phased recovery.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

Helen Angus
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health

Dr. David Williams
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Ministry of Health

Matthew Anderson
President and CEO
Ontario Health